

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 AID-20 IO-12 EB-11 EUR-25 RSR-01 /151 W
----- 086433

P R 170244 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2370

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5939

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR ASEAN

SUBJECT: ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: BANGKOK 5812

1. ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING OPENED APRIL 16 IN
PATTAYA, THAILAND WITH OFFICIAL OBSERVERS FROM LAOS AND CAMBODIA.
NORTH VIETNAM SOUTH VIETNAM AND BURMA
DID NOT SEND OBSERVERS, ALTHOUGH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
AMBASSADOR ALONG WITH MANY OTHER AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED
TO THAILAND INCLUDING AMBASSADOR UNGER ATTENDED THE
OPENING CREMONIES AT INVITATION OF RTG. (THE BURMESE AMBASSADOR
ALTHOUGH PRESENT AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS IN PATTAYA APRIL 16
APPRENTLY STAYED AWAY FROM THE OPENING MEETING)

2. IN OPENING REMARKDS. PRIMIN THANOM CALLED FORA CONFERENCE
OF ALL NATIONS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THIS
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WAS SUPPORTED LATER BY FONSEC ROMULO IN OPENING ADDRESS AS LEADER OF THE THAI DELEGATION DPTYFONMIN CHARTCHAI SAID THAT PROSPECTS FOR REAL PEACE IN INDOCHINA ARE NOT ENCOURAGING AND PROPOSED THAT ASEAN " TAKE INITIATIVES AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY/ WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY OF THE AREA.

3. ROMULO CALLED POINTEDLY FOR WIDER CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS AND THE ASEAN COUNTRIES IN REGARD TO THEIR PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLES IN SOTHEAST ASIA. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO INDONESIA AND MALAYSIAFOR SUPPORTING THE PHILS AT THE BENGHAZI MUSLIM CONFERENCE ANDSAID THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MUSLIM PROBLEM IN THE PHILIPPINES LATER IN THE MEETING.

4. ROMULO AND FONMIN MALIK METIONED THE ARCHIPELAGO THEORY OF SOVEREIGNTY , INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD BRING THE SUBJECT UP AGAIN LATER IN THE MEETING. MALIK AND DPTY PRIMIN RAHMAN CALLED FOR CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING AN ASEAN SECRE-TARIAT.

5. THE MOST NOTABLE OPENING ADDRESS WAS THAT OF FONMIN RAJARATNAM WHO STATED THAT BECAUSE THE GREAT POWERS HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM IDEOLOGICAL CONCERNS TO TRADITIONAL POWER POLITICS, AND NOW SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES NOT BY BYING ALLIES BUT THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES, THEY ARE NOT AS CONVINCED AS THEY WERE IN 1967 (WHEN ASEAN WAS FOUNDED) THAT POVERTY, UNREST AND TURMOIL IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES SERIOUSLY THREATENS THEIR INTERESTS. THIS DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID, THREATENS THE CONTINUATION OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WITHOUT WHICH GROWTH IN THE ASEAN REGION WOULD BE PAINFULLY SLOW.

6. BANGKOK RPOST APRIL 15 QUOTED FONSEC ROMULO AS SAYING THAT FOREIGN BASES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO BE PHASED OUT TO MAKE WAY FOR NEUTRALIZATION FO THE REGION. TO KEEP THE SUBJECT IN PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, THE POST NOTEDTHAT " GEN. ROMULO AGREES WITH THAILAND'S CONTENTION THAT A REAL VIETNAM PEACE SHOULD PRECEDE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FORCES FROM THAI BASES AND THE NEUTRALIZATION OF THE ASEAN AREA." UNGER

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JAKARTA
KUALA LUMPUR
MANILA
PHNOM PENH
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC

SINGAPORE
VIENTIANE

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